MAR 0 8 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PADEMARK

YAGETA et al.

#2

SERIAL NO.:

10/061,975

FILED:

January 31, 2002

FOR:

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DOCKET:

NEC PF2946

Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

AND SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby submit a certified copy of Japanese patent application no. 2001-028146 filed February 5, 2001, under which priority was claimed in the subject patent application filed on January 31, 2002.

Applicants also hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. The references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

The enclosed Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to receipt of the first Office Action. Therefore, we believe that there are no fees involved with this Prior Art

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C. 130 W. CUSHING ST. TUCSON, AZ 85701

TEL. 520.882.7623 FAX. 520.882.7643 Disclosure Statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman P. Soloway Attorney for Applicants Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 25, 2002 at Tucson, Arizona.

By: Sharon McKniff

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C. 130 W. CUSHING ST. TUCSON, AZ 85701

TEL. 520.882.7623 FAX. 520.882.7643

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